Surrender of BSNL and MTNL Phones

4526. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during April 2004 to February, 2005, there has been a significant rise in the number of surrender of BSNL and MTNL fixed line phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for such major increase in surrender of BSNL and MTNL land line phones;

(d) by what percentage have cell phone connections increased during this period; and

(e) the manner in which it has affected the business of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Digital Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

4527. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu have been digitalized;

(b) if so, the number of digitalized telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu, District-wise;

(c) if not, the total number of telephone exchanges yet to be digitalized;

(d) whether Government are taking efforts to install only digitalized telephone exchanges in the country; and